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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 1978

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
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Volume 8 Number 6

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

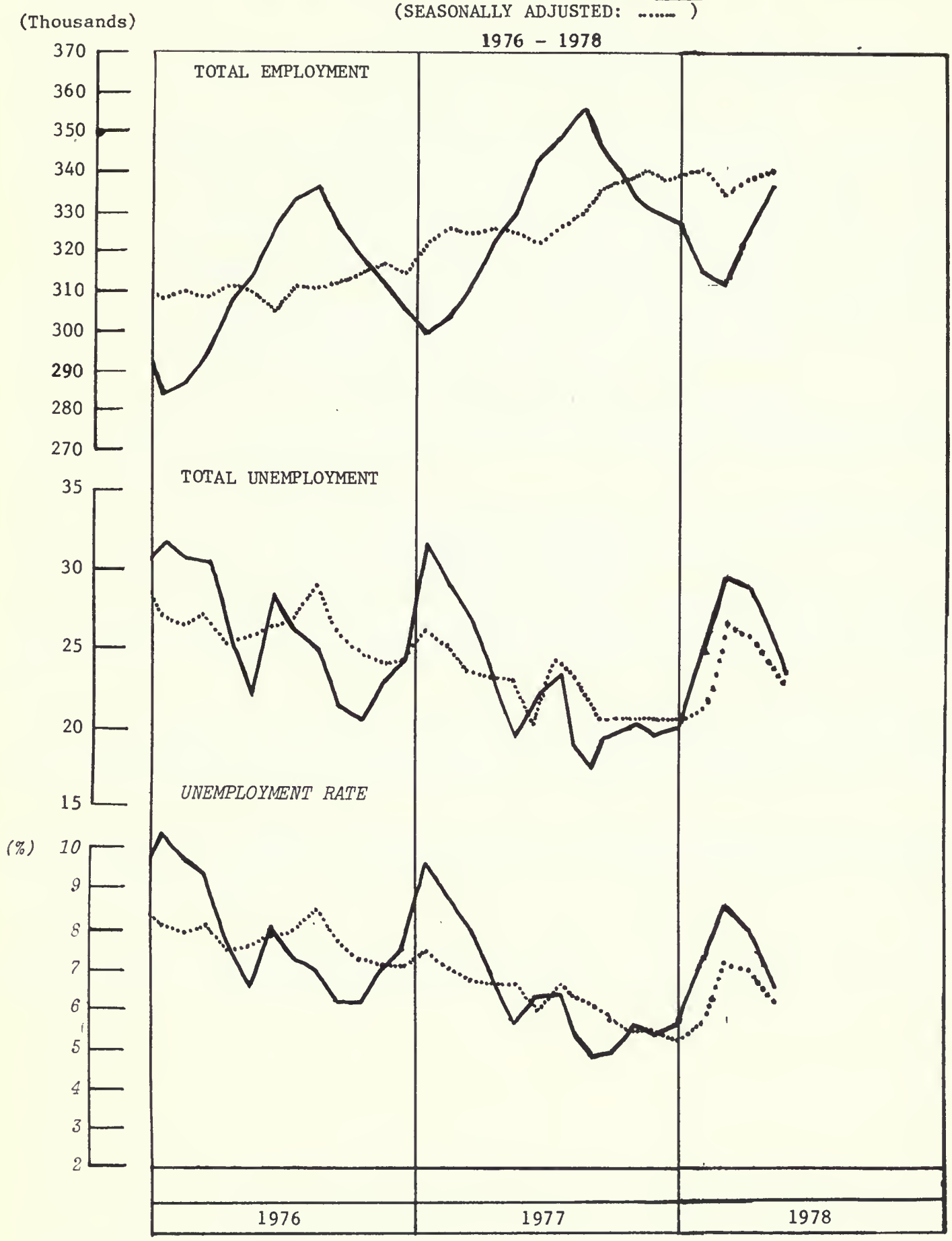
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)

1976 - 1978



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Seasonal factors again had a positive effect on Montana's economy during May, with many sectors showing employment increases normal to this time of the year.

The civilian labor force increased to 360,200 during May, an increase of 19,800 over the same month last year. Employed persons now number 340,800, a substantial annual gain of 21,000, an increase of 5,900 individuals in the past month. The cumulative result of these changes has been a reduction in the unemployment rate as the May rate of 5.4% (not seasonally adjusted) shows continued improvement from April's 6.5% and March's 8.3%. The jobless rolls now total 19,400, a notable drop from April's figure of 23,200. Agriculture gained 1000 employees while construction posted a 700 person increase with almost all other sectors showing small, steady gains.

The tourist season is now in full swing with the closure of schools as summer commences. Montana's economy is feeling the seasonal improvements in tourist related businesses, but may be suffering some significant losses from the continuing labor dispute involving one of the state's major airlines.

As previously stated, construction and agriculture dominate the new employment gains in the labor force. Some slowdowns have been experienced in both sectors due to wet weather so these areas may show even more improvement as the weather moderates.

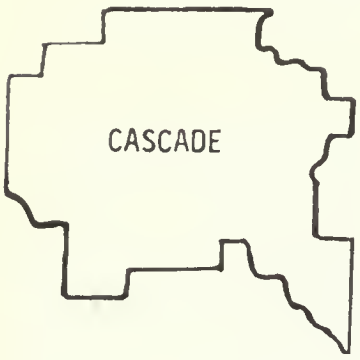
Building permits continue to increase, but at a slower pace, indicating the seasonal construction peak may be reached soon. In another weather related development, the lumber and wood products industry should resume full production following the spring break-up slowdown.

Indicators of economic significance registered mixed performances during the period. Real spendable earnings rebounded from March's decline but have still not returned to previous levels. New business formations continue ahead of last year's annual pace and the month of May's figure of 559 is 26% higher than last year's similar statistic.

Contract construction concerns and wholesale and retail firms are responsible for most new businesses. The composite index of six leading indicators increased substantially in March, and stayed relatively constant in April, again reflecting the mixed but upward movement of this economy.

The overall outlook for improvement in Montana's economy appears good, with slow, stable growth punctuated by seasonal fluctuations. However, continued high rates of inflation may tend to cloud the outlook for the coming months.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The month of May witnessed very little change in the overall employment situation in the Great Falls area, but the shifts which did occur were positive. The civilian labor force registered 35,000 for the month, unchanged from April's figure, but 300 persons more than in May, 1977 Fortunately, although the civilian labor force did not expand, the number of its members who were employed increased. The modest rise of 100 brought the total number of working individuals to 33,000. At the same time, the ranks of the unemployed declined by 100, leaving that figure at 2,000 persons during the month of May. The consequence of declining numbers of jobless persons relative to the unchanged civilian labor force was a drop in the unemployment rate in the SMSA, from 6.1% last month to a current rate of 5.7%

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Once again, the construction industry appears to be exerting a positive influence on the economy of the Great Falls area. Building permits issued in the city totaled 136 in May, amounting to a 27% increase over the previous month. Furthermore, employment in this sector increased during the past month - one of the few industrial sectors to do so. Major projects in the planning stages or currently under way include a new banking facility, and a proposed newspaper complex which is still pending approval.

The number of new business formations was a very positive economic gauge during May, with 55 new firms being established in that month. This figure is almost double the 28 recorded in April, and although the year-to-date total of 199 remains well back of the previous year's comparable figure, a considerable advance was made. The demand for workers in most industrial sectors suggests a very active summertime economy in this area. Reports from the local Job Service office indicate that hiring has been particularly good in the trade and service sectors of the economy. This trend is likely to continue during the tourist months and as long as new business openings are as numerous as they have been recently. In all, the outlook for the Great Falls SMSA in the coming months appears good.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate in the Billings SMSA continued to fall in May reaching a 4.0% level. The number of unemployed persons is 2,100, which is a decrease of 300 from last month's figure and 200 less than last year's similar statistic. An unemployment rate of 4.0% is a positive indicator of an overall excellent outlook for the area's economy.

In May, the civilian labor force stood at 52,400 a drop of 300 from last month's calculation. The labor force is growing steadily but slowly as indicated by an increase of 400 over last May's figure. The stability of the area's economy is easily discerned by comparing the number of employed individuals, which has stayed constant at 50,300 for the last two months. This level may also have more relevance when related to last year's figure of 49,700 for the month of May. The civilian labor force figures may show some slowing in the Billings area's growth, but conversely the improving employment and unemployment statistics indicate the strength of the economy.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction activities, both in progress and planned, continue to highlight the Billings economy. Several shopping center projects are underway, varying from those nearly completed to those that have just begun excavation. Other significant projects include a low income housing development, an addition to a hospital, and numerous office sites. A major international hotel chain has announced tentative plans for a large hotel/convention center in Billings. The proposed building would be of 22 stories and the tallest in the state.

The heavy rains of the past month caused some flooding in the area but did not result in many work stoppages. It is estimated that about 200 persons were idled for a day or two by the floods. The only major repair work underway appears to be some fence rebuilding in the once flooded fields.

A plant closure and a continuing labor dispute were negative factors in the area's economy. A major baking concern has bought out a smaller regional firm and closed its local plant resulting in a layoff of 80 individuals. However, the same major concern is commencing production at its new Billings plant, so re-employment for a portion of those laid off appears imminent.

A major airline serving the area continues to be involved in a labor dispute. The airline has, however, begun limited operation with management personnel and some affected workers in related industries may be called back. The national cattle supply situation has also resulted in some shortages at a local meat packing plant, causing short layoffs at periodic intervals.

The retail and service sectors expanded as is normal for this time of year. A national chain restaurant opened employing about 50 people. Youth applicants are rapidly filling jobs in the service oriented, summer duration categories.

The number of new businesses formed during May was 77, a gain over last year's figure of 61. The year-to-date total of new businesses was at 340, a 15% increase over last year. New businesses are only one indicator of economic growth, but seem to show continued growth of the SMSA's economy.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The decrease in the LMA's unemployment rate continued in May, but at a slower rate. The rate dropped 0.6 in May to a level of 7.4%. This rate is also 0.5 lower than last May's figure of 7.9% indicating some small long term improvement in the situation. The number of unemployed persons now stands at 2,600 a drop of 200 from April's statistic. The area's unemployment rate of 7.4% is however still substantially above the statewide average of 5.4%.

The employed portion of the labor force is now at 32,800 persons, a 8.6% increase from May 1977's estimate of 30,200. The employment figure also reflects the normal seasonal increases, being 800 higher than last month's. The civilian labor force for the Anaconda-Butte LMA stood at 35,400 during May, an increase of 7.9% over last year and 600 higher than April's figure. The area appears to be experiencing a normal seasonal upswing in employment but the situation is still not extremely favorable when compared to the rest of the state.

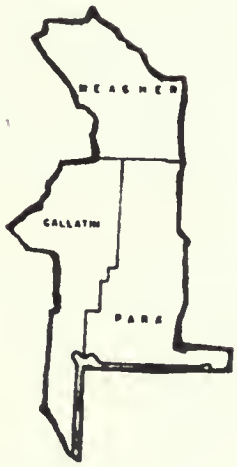
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The layoffs in the non-ferrous metal mining and smelting industry continue to inhibit the area's economy. The cutbacks in mining in Butte and the temporary closure of a smelter in Anaconda are related to the price of copper and specifically the price of imported copper. Effects of the layoffs go beyond the actual industry as employment levels in basic industries such as this one have secondary and tertiary influences on the whole economy. Retail and service establishments appear to be experiencing some of these adverse effects in the Anaconda-Butte area.

The economy is however, experiencing an upturn in most sectors as is the normal seasonal pattern. Construction projects are in full swing in the area, ranging from a new motel in Dillon to a shopping center expansion in Butte. A hospital addition is nearing completion in Butte and housing construction continues in all areas. Agricultural activities including seeding, irrigating, branding, and fencing are in progress as weather permits. Requests are being received by all Job Service offices for experienced ranch hands. Logging activities in the outlying areas are gearing up as the seasonal shutdowns end. Tentative plans have been revealed concerning the renovation of a hotel in the uptown area of Butte into a multi-unit housing facility.

The summer season has created some demand in tourist related industries in the area. Summer jobs are being rapidly filled as local schools close for the summer.

BOZEMAN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate for the LMA took another drop in May to 3.9% of the civilian labor force. This amounts to a net decrease of 300 persons from the April rate of 4.9%. Significantly, it is also much lower than last year's similar statistic of 5.4%, a notable net decrease of 1.5.

The Bozeman LMA civilian labor force stands at 26,500, a very healthy 13.2% increase over last year's 23,400. Employed persons in the area number 25,500, a gain of 200 for the month. Perhaps more importantly the count of employed individuals is running 15.4% higher than a year ago. These labor force statistics all tend to indicate the excellent condition of the area's economy, whether compared to current data for the rest of the state or last year's LMA data.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations are now running ahead of last year's pace after a substantial gain of 61 during May, compared with a figure of 37 last year. To date this year, 214 firms have been established, a 5% increase over last year's 204.

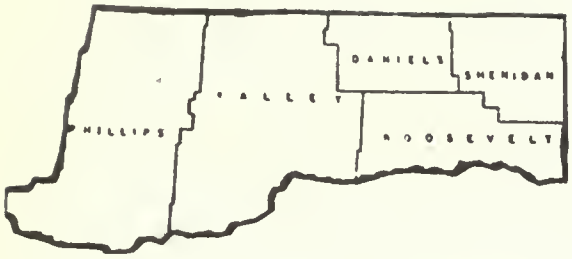
The construction industry is moving ahead as a major force in the area economy. Reports of building permits for May in Bozeman totalled about $2 million more than last May's similar statistic. Significant projects include a utility company's office and warehouse complex, and an expansion of a medical center. Housing construction, both apartments and single family dwellings, continues to expand as the weather improves. Several retail facilities are nearing completion.

The opening of the summer tourist season in adjacent Yellowstone Park is causing some expansion and hiring in retail and service sectors. This condition will continue as the industry builds to its normal seasonal peak.

Other weather related industries have begun hiring after some rain related slowdowns. Agriculture is in full swing with a demand for experienced workers noted. The logging concerns in the area should be back in full production after shutdown because of the spring breakup. Some high country areas are just beginning to clear enough to allow operations to resume.

The end of the school term at a large university in the area may cause some layoff, but this is a normal seasonal occurrence. Other student related economic activities may be temporarily affected also.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of individuals who were employed remained the same at 16,600, while those who were unemployed registered a decline of 300, reducing total unemployment to 700. The civilian labor force showed the same decrease of 300, but with April's gain, the labor pool total of 17,300 in May still compares favorably with the 17,000 figure from May of 1977.

These shifts brought the unemployment rate for the LMA to 4.0%, down from April's 5.6% and also well below the 5.4% recorded for May of last year.

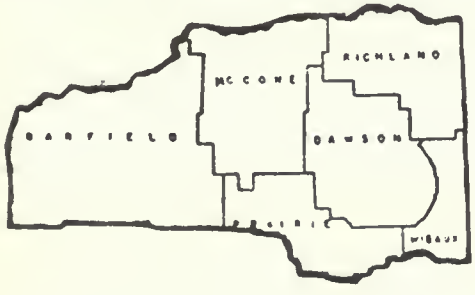
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction continues to be the leading industry in the LMA. Units under construction include a bentonite plant, nursing home, city water line and general housing at Glasgow, as well as housing units and a museum in Wolf Point. The Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC) Program has been running behind schedule, but has provided a number of jobs in the Bureau of Land Management. More openings are anticipated in July with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

A bentonite plant site near Malta is ready for construction, and is projected to be producing by 1979. Costs to this point are estimated at over $1 million, and the plant could employ as many as 150 workers in the mid-1980's.

The number of new business firms continues to lag behind the 1977 figures, with 12 new firms in May compared to 17 in May of last year. This brings the present year-to-date total to 46, still 12 less than last year's figure of 58.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force stayed constant at the level of 14,700 during April and May. This figure is however a 5% increase over last year's statistic of 14,000. The number of employed individuals made a 200 person gain during the month, to 14,300. This is a sizable increase of 800 from last year, as employment rose by 5.9% over the period.

The jobless rate for the area declined during the month to 2.9%. This is an improvement over the excellent 3.2 % posted for May of 1977 and indicates that the rate is even better than normal for the summer season. These favorable indicators tend to signify excellent prospects for the area economy, at least on a short term basis.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A labor dispute is in progress at a local hospital and nursing home. Various reports estimate the number of laid off workers anywhere from 50 to 100, with little indication of secondary effects.

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

The retail and service sectors appeared to be in the midst of a normal seasonal upswing. Oilfield activity and the influx of migrant farm workers have created a demand for motels and restaurants. The beginning of the tourist season has added to the growth in this sector.

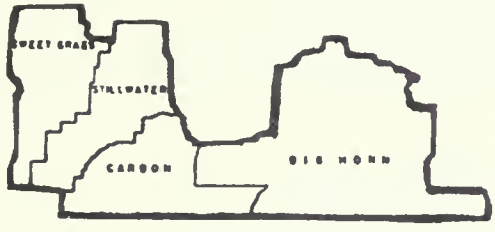
Construction activity is on the increase in the area, as the industry gears up for the summer. Highway projects are continuing in all parts of the LMA with only temporary shutdowns due to some rainy weather. Residential building projects are in full swing in most localities. Numerous businesses ranging from driveins to credit unions, have new facilities under construction and several others have remodeling underway. A major utility is commencing teardown, upgrade and maintenance work on its Sidney generating station.

New business formations, an indicator of economic growth, totalled 28 in May compared with 22 in May of 1977. The year-to-date statistic of 81 is also 14% higher than last year, but care should be exercised to utilize this figure only in conjunction with other economic indicators.

Agricultural work is also progressing normally, with beet thinning, cultivating, and summer fallowing the major activities. There have been some brief rain delays, but these will probably be worth the long run benefits of such precipitation.

Local Job Service offices report continued shortages of some medical personnel and experienced waitresses.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force dropped by 100 persons in May, to a total of 12,000. While this represents a decline over last month, the labor pool for this four-county LMA is still 100 greater than that of a year ago, when the May 1977 civilian labor force numbered 11,900.

The total number of employed persons remained at 11,400, unchanged from April, but 100 greater than the number recorded for May of 1977. The jobless rolls declined by 100 from the April total, bringing May's unemployment figure to 600, which was the same total recorded in May 1977.

The 4.9% unemployment rate for May was lower than April's 5.5%, most likely due to improving weather conditions. This rate compares favorably with the statewide rate of 5.4% and also shows improvement over last May's 5.2% jobless rate.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

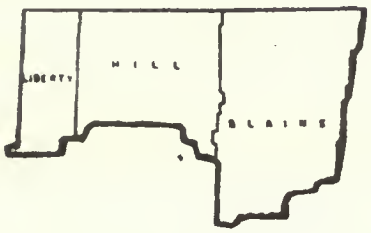
The number of new business firms remains ahead of last year, with 18 reported in May of this year, compared with 8 in May of last year. In addition, the year-to-date total is significantly higher for 1978, as 75 new firms were tallied in the first five months compared with 44 recorded in the same period a year ago.

Extensive spring flood damage resulted in a number of counties in the LMA being declared disaster areas, and hence eligible for federal assistance.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA (Cont.)

Job Service of Montana has selected Carbon County to receive training and employment opportunities through use of a Mobile Employment and Training Unit, a federally funded project under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). The program is designed to provide unemployed persons with assistance in making a job choice, job-finding techniques and job retention skills. It may prove to have a future impact on unemployment in this area.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force remained at last month's level of 13,300 while the number of those employed gained 100 for a total of 12,700. Unemployment was down from last month, with about 600 persons unemployed. The reduction in unemployment decreased the unemployment rate to 4.5%, compared to 5.4% last month. While the unemployment rate has been dropping, it remains slightly above the May 1977 figure of 4.2%.

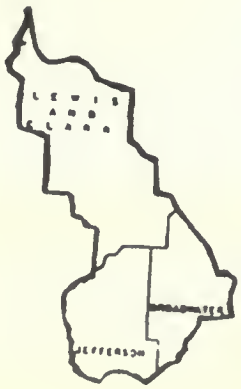
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Wholesale, retail and service industries continued to dominate the economy as rainy weather restricted other activity. Rain has kept most construction workers inside and delayed farm operations, while muddy roads hampered exploration drilling for gas and oil.

A major construction project currently underway in Havre is a 40-store shopping center scheduled to open November 1. In addition to the temporary construction employment provided, the mall could prove to be a boost to the area's permanent employment picture in terms of expected hirings in the fall.

New businesses totaled 20 for the month of May, consistent with last May's figure of 21 but leaving the year-to-date total of 65 still slightly below the 1977 figure of 71. The reader should be aware that new business firms are only a partial indicator of economic conditions, and other variables must be taken into account to fully determine the direction of the local economy.

HELENA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In May, the civilian labor force stood at 26,200 for the three county Helena LMA. This compares favorably with the May 1977 labor force figure of 24,600 but is actually less than last month's estimate of 26,300. Employment statistics showed improvement in both comparisons, being 7.3% larger than last May's and 0.8% larger than this April's, at the reported May level of 25,000 individuals.

The area's unemployment rate took a significant drop to 4.8% from April's rate of 5.7%. The rate also compares favorably with last May's figure of 5.3%, indicating a decrease of 0.5 in the rate during the past year. These indicators would point toward a stable labor force for the area, with a much improved unemployment situation.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Transfers of federal offices from Helena are having an effect on the area's labor force. One agency is transferring its function involving 14 employees to Denver, while approximately 90 workers are affected by another office's partial reorganization move to the West Coast. The economy was also adversely affected by the continuing layoff of about 70 individuals from the zinc fuming operations of a local smelting firm.

Federal agencies in the Helena area are occupying their space in their new downtown facility thus freeing office space in various locations. Some remodeling work will probably be completed before the rental offices are reoccupied.

Good weather conditions have spurred the local construction activity recently. Highway projects are progressing in the area. Several small projects such as retail store buildings and car lots are under construction. The housing sector appears to be as strong as last year in spite of earlier forecasts of a surplus market. Excavation and foundation work has begun on a new bank on the northside of Helena.

New businesses for the year tally to 174 through the end of May, with 41 started in the month. These statistics exceed last year's same period totals of 157 and 34.

The agricultural portion of the LMA economy appears to be in good shape. Crops are off to a good start in almost all categories. Orders for farm workers are running consistently higher than last year at the Job Service office.

Unfilled openings in the area continue in some clerical fields and also are indicated in highly technical and professional areas. Youths are registering for work with the end of the school year, and special Job Service programs are attempting to find them employment for the summer.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation;

The area's civilian labor force and its employed portion increased greatly during May to levels of 36,800 and 33,600 respectively. The labor force figure reflects a jump of 17.6% over last year's May statistic, while the employment level is 19.1% higher than last May's. The labor force is 4.2% larger than it was in April and the employed portion is a notable 8% higher.

The jobless rate for the Kalispell LMA subsequently took a drop to 8.8% from April's 11.9%. This improvement is a step in the right direction but the LMA's unemployment rate of 8.8% is still the highest in the state, and significantly above the statewide rate of 5.4%. The reported changes appear to be related to normal seasonal upswings in employment patterns and will not solve the areas long-term unemployment problems.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The local area economy continued its strong expansion in all areas. Lumber and wood products industries showed varied progress. The wet weather at times slowed logging activities and resulted in some shortages of logs at sawmills. The improving weather conditions should alleviate the situation. A temporary work stoppage by area independent truckers may have also had some effects, but the 80-100 drivers are now back to work.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

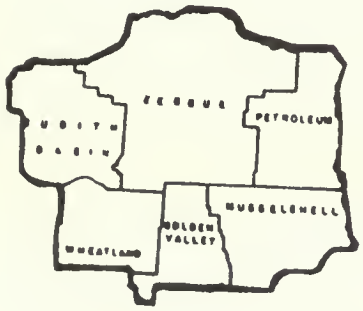
A labor dispute in in progress in the Libby area between a large vermiculite mining concern and its employees. Approximately 240 workers are directly idled by the dispute, and others may be indirectly affected.

The construction sector is showing rapid improvement coincident with the better weather conditions. The housing construction business appears to be especially strong in all parts of the LMA, while other construction also continues at a good pace. A $2 million bid was let for a government fish hatchery near Libby, and other projects are in progress at Libby Dam.

Agricultural activities are commencing in full with the advent of summer. Seeding and field preparation are the main activities made possible by drier weather. With the end of the school year, a large number of youths have filled the need for relatively inexperienced farm and ranch workers.

The tourist season has begun, causing much improvement in the local retail and service businesses. Demand occupations in this sector include waiter/waitresses, cooks, cocktail waitresses, and yard workers. The supply of workers is meeting the demand in all other areas.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

May's unemployment rate fell to 4.1% following last month's figure of 4.4% for the six county area. This decrease appears to be a normal seasonal trend but is 1.1 lower than last May's 5.2% indicating some long term improvement. The number of unemployed persons is now 400, a drop of 100 in the last month.

The civilian labor force for the LMA is 10,800, a gain of 300 over the last twelve month period. It is also an increase from April's calculation of 10,700. Employment grew by 4% since May of 1977 and is now at a level of 10,400. These labor force indicators seem to relate normal seasonal upswings, but also tend to signify some long term growth for the area.

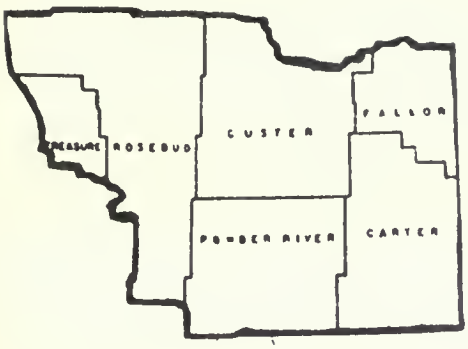
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations continued to run slightly behind last year's pace, numbering 39 for the first five months of 1977. The monthly figure of 8 was, however, the same as last May's tally. New businesses are but one indicator of economic growth and should be related to other statistics before drawing any firm conclusion.

Agricultural activities continue to pick up despite brief slowdowns due to rainy weather. The demand for workers is steady and some shortages may occur at times. Other industries affected by seasonal trends are also noting gains. The construction sector is progressing as weather permits, with major projects being a new bank and a low income housing complex.

The tourist season has commenced and downtown establishments in the retail and service fields have noted some increased activity. Timber harvesting and related wood production concerns are beginning to resume operations after the spring breakup shutdowns. A subsequent shortage of qualified timber fallers has occurred during the period.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Miles City LMA's civilian labor force has grown by 300 persons since May of 1977, with the number of employed individuals increasing by the same amount for the period. This expansion indicates the stable but growing condition of the area's economy. The civilian labor force reached 15,100 in May compared to April's 14,900, indicative of the normal seasonal pattern for the area.

The unemployment rate for the month was 4.1% with 600 people being unemployed. This rate is an improvement over last month's 4.4%, but the trend is evidently seasonal as last May's rate was also 4.1%. Some of these positive factors are, of course, normal seasonal increases but an expanding labor force, a large number of employed persons, and a low unemployment rate all indicate a healthy economic situation.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The wet weather continued to affect the area, but improved towards the end of the period. Relatively little damage was reported from the floods and activities are back to normal. The reported precipitation during May was 6.82 inches or approximately one-half the annual average.

Construction activities again highlight the area's economy, and are moving ahead rapidly as the weather improves. Work is progressing on two buildings at a local community college which will cost about $1.3 million. A shopping center complex is underway in Miles City. The Forsyth area is also sharing in the construction upswing, as bids were recently opened there for a new $½ million county jail and a headquarters facility for a local telephone firm. Reports indicate the area is experiencing its biggest building year in decades.

New businesses for the year number 61 in the LMA slightly up from last year's figure of 59. The monthly total of 19 was also above last May's 14, indicating stable growth. New businesses are only a partial indicator of economic growth and other variables certainly must be considered in any judgement.

Experienced farm and ranch workers continue to be in demand at the local Job Service office, as the agricultural industry reaches its peak season. Turnover and tourist related summer expansion are also creating some demand for restaurant workers, as noted in previous reports.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force posted a moderate increase of 200 persons over last month, raising the total to 46,700. Total employment exceeded last month's figure of 42,700 by 1000, bringing it to a level of 43,700.

The unemployment rate continued its seasonal decline with 6.5% compared to April's rate of 8.2%. Although the Missoula area remains at a higher unemployment rate than the state as a whole, the gap appears to be narrowing. The LMA jobless rate of 6.5% remains considerably lower than last year's May rate of 8.0%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Below-normal temperatures and an unseasonal record snowstorm near the end of the month hampered logging operations, but improving weather conditions have since allowed the industry to return to its normal level.

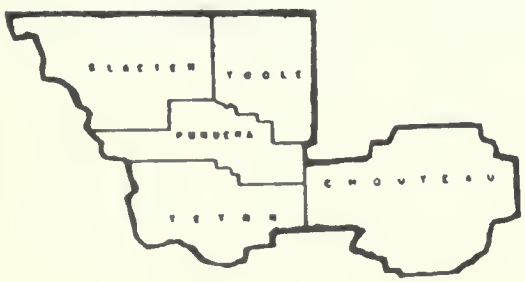
In spite of occasional delays from poor weather, construction was on its seasonal upswing with 150 new homes for sale in Missoula and dozens more being built. A number of new houses and businesses are also under construction in the Hamilton area, and plans were announced for a new motel west of Lolo.

The new shopping center on Missoula's southern edge has attracted a savings and loan as well as a Mexican restaurant and lounge, both of which announced plans to build near the mall. At least two major department stores are still interviewing job applicants in anticipation of the shopping center's opening.

On the negative side, Missoula is currently experiencing a labor dispute involving nearly 60 licensed practical nurses and a local hospital, while the airplane pilot's dispute with one of Montana's major airlines reports no progress since it began nearly two months ago. Layoffs continued at a home building products plant at Bonner and also at a meat processing plant in Missoula, together affecting 30 to 45 workers. The Bonner plant plans to rehire most workers as the summer provides more jobs, and all workers there are expected to return to work by September 1.

The number of new businesses in May totaled 80, a considerable increase over last month's figure of 49. In spite of April's slump, the year-to-date total of 353 remains well ahead of the 327 new businesses recorded for the same period in 1977.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force rose to a level of 17,900 persons in May, an increase of 200 over the previous month. This represents a 5.9% increase over last year's figure of 16,900.

Employment gained 400 persons in May, moving to a level of 17,100 from the 16,700 total recorded in April. This employment level represents a 6.9% increase over the 16,000 employed persons in May of 1977.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA (Cont.)

The unemployment rate again declined in this LMA, as it did statewide. The LMA rate dropped to 4.3%, which represents 800 on the jobless rolls. This follows unemployment rates of 7.9% in March, and 5.5% in April. This compares favorably with last year's figure of 5.3% and also with this month's statewide rate of 5.4%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Warmer, drier weather has stepped up construction and agricultural activity, with the demand for skilled workers increasing in both industries. Construction crews are currently working on new homes, a senior citizens center, a sports complex, store additions, a grain elevator and numerous small jobs throughout the five-county LMA. The outlook for agriculture appears excellent, with plenty of moisture for crops and ranges.

Also in demand are experienced oilfield workers, as oil exploration is expanding in the area. With the tourist season getting underway, demand is also noted in the service industry for motel employees and all types of restaurant workers.

A rise in the number of unemployment claims appears to be due to the school employees who are laid off for the summer. Most of those filing for benefits are teacher's aides, cooks and bus drivers.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

MAY 1978

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	366	171	2255
CETA-CEP	103	63	233
CETA-INST.	47	68	250
CETA-OJT	70	43	201
JOB CORPS	33	47	398
PSE TITLE II	73	46	421
PSE TITLE VI	97	55	780
PSE TITLE VI "A"	114	47	652
CETA-AWE	61	28	98
STIP	1	---	21

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	Apr. 1978	*Percent Change From:* Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977
All Items	191.4	*.9*	*6.6*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED

APRIL 1978

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*6.1%*
Female	*27.7%*
Youth	*9.1%*
Over 45	*23.9%*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

Table I

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Disputes
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	U. S.	
1976								
January	307.5	283.1	262.2	20.9	24.4	*7.9*	*8.8*	*
February	309.0	286.1	263.0	23.1	22.9	*7.4*	*8.7*	*
March	317.0	294.2	266.1	28.1	22.8	*7.2*	*8.1*	*
April	325.9	306.8	271.8	35.0	19.1	*5.9*	*7.4*	*
May	329.6	313.0	276.7	36.3	16.6	*5.0*	*6.7*	*
June	345.5	324.2	282.5	41.7	21.3	*6.2*	*8.0*	.1
July	354.4	334.8	289.9	44.9	19.6	*5.5*	*7.8*	.1
August	357.4	338.6	290.2	48.4	18.8	*5.3*	*7.6*	.1
September	344.7	327.9	289.9	38.0	16.8	*4.9*	*7.4*	.1
October	333.8	316.9	284.4	32.5	16.9	*5.1*	*7.2*	.1
November	331.2	311.8	283.6	28.2	19.4	*5.9*	*7.4*	.1
December	328.1	306.7	282.3	24.4	21.4	*6.5*	*7.4*	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	*6.1*	*7.7*	.1
1977								
January	316.7	291.7	269.1	22.6	25.0	*7.9*	*8.3*	.1
February	320.3	294.9	270.1	24.8	25.4	*7.9*	*8.5*	.1
March	328.4	303.0	273.1	29.9	25.4	*7.7*	*7.9*	.1
April	336.5	313.9	276.9	37.0	22.6	*6.7*	*6.9*	.1
May	340.4	319.8	281.6	38.2	20.6	*6.1*	*6.4*	.1
June	356.1	333.6	290.1	43.5	22.5	*6.3*	*7.5*	.2
July	364.4	342.4	295.9	46.5	22.0	*6.0*	*7.0*	3.3
August	371.4	350.2	300.4	49.8	21.2	*5.7*	*6.8*	.2
September	355.7	336.3	297.5	38.8	19.4	*5.5*	*6.6*	.1
October	346.0	327.2	294.2	33.0	18.8	*5.4*	*6.3*	.5
November	342.1	321.7	293.3	28.4	20.4	*6.0*	*6.4*	.1
December	337.9	317.1	292.7	24.4	20.8	*6.1*	*6.0*	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	*6.4*	*7.0*	.4
1978								
January	332.1	305.2	282.7	22.5	26.9	*8.1*	*7.0*	.2
February	341.3	311.3	286.8	24.5	30.0	*8.8*	*6.9*	.2
March	350.6	321.6	292.2	29.4	29.0	*8.3*	*6.6*	*
April	358.1	334.9	299.9	35.0	23.2	*6.5*	*5.8*	*
May	360.2	340.8	304.8	36.0	19.4	*5.4*	*5.5*	*
June	*381.1*	*355.9*	*314.8*	*41.1*	*25.2*	*6.6*		*.4*
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	29.5	27.2	26.4	.8	2.3	*7.9*	*7.9*	*
February	29.7	27.5	26.6	.9	2.2	*7.3*	*7.4*	*
March	30.8	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.3	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
April	30.8	28.9	27.5	1.4	1.9	*6.2*	*5.9*	*
May	31.1	29.3	27.9	1.4	1.8	*5.6*	*5.0*	*
June	32.4	30.0	28.4	1.6	2.4	*7.5*	*6.2*	*
July	32.6	30.5	28.7	1.8	2.1	*6.6*	*5.5*	*
August	32.8	30.8	28.9	1.9	2.0	*6.0*	*5.3*	*
September	31.8	30.1	28.6	1.5	1.7	*5.3*	*4.9*	*
October	31.9	30.1	28.8	1.3	1.8	*5.6*	*5.1*	*
November	32.0	30.1	29.0	1.1	1.9	*6.0*	*5.9*	*
December	30.2	28.3	27.3	1.0	1.9	*6.3*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	31.8	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.0	*6.3*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	31.8	29.7	28.8	.9	2.1	*6.6*	*7.9*	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.9	1.0	2.0	*6.1*	*7.9*	*
March	33.5	31.3	30.1	1.2	2.2	*6.5*	*7.7*	*
April	34.5	32.6	31.1	1.5	1.9	*5.4*	*6.7*	*
May	34.7	32.8	31.3	1.5	1.9	*5.5*	*6.1*	*
June	36.0	33.9	32.2	1.7	2.1	*5.9*	*6.3*	*
July	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	*5.6*	*6.0*	.8
August	36.4	34.2	32.2	2.0	2.2	*6.1*	*5.7*	*
September	35.6	33.4	31.9	1.5	2.2	*6.2*	*5.5*	*
October	36.0	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.2	*6.1*	*5.4*	.4
November	35.4	33.4	32.3	1.1	2.0	*5.7*	*6.0*	*
December	35.0	32.8	31.8	1.0	2.2	*6.2*	*6.1*	*
1977 Avg.	33.6	31.5	30.1	1.4	2.1	*6.2*	*6.4*	.1
1978								
January	35.3	32.6	31.7	.9	2.7	*7.8*	*8.1*	*
February	36.2	32.8	31.8	1.0	3.4	*9.3*	*8.8*	*
March	35.3	32.4	31.2	1.2	2.9	*8.0*	*8.3*	*
April	35.0	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.1	*6.1*	*6.5*	*
May	35.0	33.0	31.6	1.4	2.0	*5.7*	*5.4*	*
June	*36.7*	*34.2*	*32.6*	*1.6*	*2.5*	*6.7*	*6.6*	*
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1976								
January	44.6	41.8	40.8	1.0	2.8	*6.2*	*7.9*	*
February	44.7	42.3	41.2	1.1	2.4	*5.4*	*7.4*	*
March	45.3	42.8	41.5	1.3	2.5	*5.6*	*7.2*	*
April	47.1	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.1	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
May	46.6	44.9	43.2	1.7	1.7	*3.7*	*5.0*	*
June	48.6	46.0	44.1	1.9	2.6	*5.4*	*6.2*	*
July	49.4	47.0	44.9	2.1	2.4	*4.8*	*5.5*	*
August	49.0	46.8	44.6	2.2	2.2	*4.4*	*5.3*	*
September	49.6	47.7	46.0	1.7	1.9	*3.9*	*4.9*	*
October	48.9	47.0	45.5	1.5	1.9	*3.9*	*5.1*	*
November	49.0	46.9	45.6	1.3	2.1	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
December	49.4	46.9	45.8	1.1	2.5	*5.0*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	48.5	46.2	44.7	1.5	2.3	*4.6*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	48.9	46.3	45.3	1.0	2.6	*5.4*	*7.9*	*
February	50.6	47.8	46.7	1.1	2.8	*5.5*	*7.9*	*
March	51.2	48.5	47.1	1.4	2.7	*5.2*	*7.7*	*
April	52.1	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.3	*4.4*	*6.7*	*
May	52.0	49.7	47.9	1.8	2.3	*4.5*	*6.1*	*
June	52.7	50.4	48.4	2.0	2.3	*4.4*	*6.3*	*
July	53.1	50.9	48.8	2.1	2.2	*4.1*	*6.0*	.1
August	54.3	51.9	49.6	2.3	2.4	*4.4*	*5.7*	.1
September	53.9	51.5	49.7	1.8	2.4	*4.4*	*5.5*	.1
October	53.6	51.3	49.8	1.5	2.3	*4.3*	*5.4*	.1
November	53.8	51.5	50.2	1.3	2.3	*4.2*	*6.0*	.1
December	52.9	50.6	49.5	1.1	2.3	*4.3*	*6.1*	.1
1977 Avg.	50.6	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.4	*4.8*	*6.4*	*
1978								
January	51.9	48.8	47.8	1.0	3.1	*6.0*	*8.1*	.1
February	53.8	50.2	49.1	1.1	3.6	*6.7*	*8.8*	.1
March	52.6	49.1	47.8	1.3	3.5	*6.7*	*8.3*	*
April	52.7	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.4	*4.6*	*6.5*	*
May	52.4	50.3	48.6	1.7	2.1	*4.0*	*5.4*	*
June	*54.8*	*52.1*	*50.2*	*1.9*	*2.7*	*5.0*	*6.6*	*
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

May 1978

in Thousands

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

INDUSTRY	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: Apr. 1978	May 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	360.2	358.1	340.4	2.1	19.8
EMPLOYED PERSONS	340.8	334.9	319.8	5.9	21.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	36.0	35.0	38.2	1.0	-2.2
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	19.4	23.2	20.6	-3.8	-1.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*5.4*	*6.5*	*6.1*	*-1.1*	*-.7*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.1*	*6.3*	*6.8*	*-.2*	*-.7*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*270.3*	*268.4*	*259.8*	*2.1*	*10.5*
MANUFACTURING	*23.5*	*23.2*	*24.1*	*.3*	*-.6*
Durable Goods	*15.4*	*15.0*	*15.7*	*.4*	*-.3*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*8.6*	*8.4*	*9.1*	*.2*	*-.5*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.6*	*3.3*	*3.4*	*.3*	*.2*
Other Durable Goods	*3.2*	*3.3*	*3.2*	*-.1*	*0*
Nondurable Goods	*8.1*	*8.2*	*8.4*	*-.1*	*-.3*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*3.5*	*3.6*	*3.8*	*-.1*	*-.3*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.1*	*.6*	*2.1*	*1.5*	*0*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.0*	*1.0*	*1.1*	*0*	*-.1*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.5*	*3.0*	*1.4*	*-1.5*	*.1*
MINING	*6.6*	*6.3*	*6.3*	*.3*	*.3*
10 Metal Mining	*2.0*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*-.1*	*-.1*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.7*	*1.6*	*1.5*	*.1*	*.2*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*2.9*	*2.6*	*2.7*	*.3*	*.2*

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	16.5	15.8	15.5	.7	1.0
15 General Building Contractors	5.9	5.5	5.6	.4	.3
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	4.8	4.5	4.9	.3	-.1
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.8	5.8	5.0	0	.8
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	20.8	20.8	20.0	0	.8
40 Railroad Transportation	6.3	6.3	6.2	0	.1
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.2	6.1	6.2	.1	0
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	8.3	8.4	7.6	-.1	.7
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	68.2	68.0	66.0	.2	2.2
Wholesale Trade	18.0	18.0	15.7	0	2.3
Retail Trade	50.2	50.0	50.3	.2	-.1
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	8.0	8.1	7.8	-.1	.2
54 Food Stores	7.6	7.4	7.0	.2	.6
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	7.5	7.4	8.1	.1	-.6
58 Eating and Drinking Places	18.0	18.0	18.3	0	-.3
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	9.1	9.1	9.1	0	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	11.8	11.7	11.1	.1	.7
SERVICES	48.8	48.7	48.1	.1	.7
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.9	6.8	5.6	.1	1.3
72 Personal Services	2.6	2.7	2.5	-.1	.1
80 Medical and other Health Services	15.9	15.9	15.2	0	.7
Other Services	23.4	23.3	24.8	.1	-1.4
GOVERNMENT	74.1	73.9	68.7	.2	5.4
91 Federal Government	14.4	14.2	13.4	.2	1.0
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.9	8.9	8.8	0	.1
92 Other State Government	11.3	11.2	10.7	.1	.6
93 Local Education	25.6	25.8	22.4	-.2	3.2
93 Other Local Government	13.9	13.8	13.4	.1	.5

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

May 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: Apr. 1978	May 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	35.0	35.0	34.7	0	.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	33.0	32.9	32.8	.1	.2
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.0	2.1	1.9	-.1	.1
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*5.7*	*6.1*	*5.5*	*-.4*	*.2*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*6.1*	*6.3*	*6.1*	*-.2*	*0*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*29.9*	*29.7*	*29.6*	*.2*	*.3*
Manufacturing	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.8*	*0*	*-.1*
Contract Construction	*1.8*	*1.7*	*1.9*	*.1*	*-.1*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.8*	*1.8*	*1.8*	*0*	*0*
Trade	*10.0*	*10.0*	*9.7*	*0*	*3*
Wholesale Trade	*2.9*	*3.0*	*2.8*	*-.1*	*.1*
Retail Trade	*7.1*	*7.0*	*6.9*	*.1*	*.2*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*1.9*	*1.8*	*1.9*	*.1*	*0*
Services and Mining	*6.5*	*6.5*	*6.3*	*0*	*.2*
Government	*6.2*	*6.2*	*6.2*	*0*	*0*
Federal Government	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.2*	*0*	*-.1*
State and Local Government	*4.1*	*4.1*	*4.0*	*0*	*.1*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
P Report month preliminary.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

May 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: Apr. 1978	May 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	52.4	52.7	52.0	-.3	.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	50.3	50.3	49.7	0	.6
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.7	1.6	1.8	.1	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.1	2.4	2.3	-.3	-.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*4.0*	*4.6*	*4.5*	*-.6*	*-.5*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*6.1*	*6.3*	*5.4*	*-.2*	*.7*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*43.8*	*43.5*	*42.6*	*.3*	*1.2*
Manufacturing	*3.5*	*3.5*	*3.6*	*0*	*-.1*
Contract Construction	*3.0*	*3.0*	*2.8*	*0*	*.2*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*3.7*	*3.6*	*3.7*	*.1*	*0*
Trade	*14.7*	*14.7*	*13.8*	*0*	*.9*
Wholesale Trade	*5.6*	*5.7*	*4.6*	*-.1*	*1.0*
Retail Trade	*9.1*	*9.0*	*9.2*	*.1*	*-.1*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.0*	*0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*8.6*	*8.4*	*8.2*	*.2*	*.4*
Government	*8.2*	*8.2*	*8.5*	*0*	*-.3*
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*1.9*	*0*	*-.4*
State and Local Government	*6.7*	*6.7*	*6.6*	*0*	*.1*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1978
STATEWIDE	350.6	358.1	360.2	321.6	334.9	340.8	29.0	23.2	19.4	*8.3*	*6.5*	*5.4*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.3	35.0	35.0	32.4	32.9	33.0	2.9	2.1	2.0	*8.0*	*6.1*	*5.7*
BILLINGS SMSA	52.6	52.7	52.4	49.1	50.3	50.3	3.5	2.4	2.1	*6.7*	*4.6*	*4.0*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	262.7	270.4	272.8	240.1	251.7	257.5	22.6	18.7	15.3	*8.6*	*6.9*	*5.6*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	33.8	34.8	35.4	30.7	32.0	32.8	3.1	2.8	2.6	*9.1*	*8.0*	*7.4*
BOZEMAN	25.8	26.6	26.5	24.1	25.3	25.5	1.7	1.3	1.0	*6.6*	*4.9*	*3.9*
GLASGOW	16.6	17.6	17.3	15.4	16.6	16.6	1.2	1.0	.7	*7.2*	*5.6*	*4.0*
GLENDIVE	14.0	14.7	14.7	13.1	14.1	14.3	.9	.6	.4	*6.4*	*3.8*	*2.9*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.8	12.1	12.0	10.8	11.4	11.4	1.0	.7	.6	*8.2*	*5.5*	*4.9*
HAVRE	12.9	13.3	13.3	12.0	12.6	12.7	.9	.7	.6	*6.6*	*5.4*	*4.5*
HELENA	25.8	26.3	26.2	23.9	24.8	25.0	1.9	1.5	1.2	*7.3*	*5.7*	*4.8*
KALISPELL	34.4	35.3	36.8	29.9	31.1	33.6	4.5	4.2	3.2	*13.1*	*11.9*	*8.8*
LEWISTOWN	10.4	10.7	10.8	9.5	10.2	10.4	.9	.5	.4	*8.3*	*4.4*	*4.1*
MILES CITY	14.4	14.9	15.1	13.4	14.2	14.5	1.0	.7	.6	*6.8*	*4.4*	*4.1*
MISSOULA	46.0	46.5	46.7	41.6	42.7	43.7	4.4	3.8	3.0	*9.5*	*8.2*	*6.5*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.8	17.7	17.9	15.5	16.7	17.1	1.3	1.0	.8	*7.9*	*5.5*	*4.3*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	May 1978	May 1977	Percent Change 1977-1978	May 1978	May 1977	Percent Change 1977-1978	May 1978	May 1977	Net Change 1977-1978	May 1978	May 1977	Net Change 1977-1978
STATEWIDE	360.2	340.4	*5.8*	340.8	319.8	*6.6*	19.4	20.6	-1.2	*5.4*	*6.1*	*-.7*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.0	34.7	*.9*	33.0	32.8	*.6*	2.0	1.9	.1	*5.7*	*5.5*	*.2*
BILLINGS SMSA	52.4	52.0	*.8*	50.3	49.7	*1.2*	2.1	2.3	-.2	*4.0*	*4.5*	*-.5*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	272.8	253.7	*7.5*	257.5	237.3	*8.5*	15.3	16.4	-1.1	*5.6*	*6.5*	*-.9*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.4	32.8	*7.9*	32.8	30.2	*8.6*	2.6	2.6	0	*7.4*	*7.9*	*-.5*
BOZEMAN	26.5	23.4	*13.2*	25.5	22.1	*15.4*	1.0	1.3	-.3	*3.9*	*5.4*	*-1.5*
GLASGOW	17.3	17.0	*1.8*	16.6	16.1	*3.1*	.7	.9	-.2	*4.0*	*5.4*	*-1.4*
GLENDIVE	14.7	14.0	*5.0*	14.3	13.5	*5.9*	.4	.5	-.1	*2.9*	*3.2*	*-.3*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.0	11.9	*.8*	11.4	11.3	*.9*	.6	.6	0	*4.9*	*5.2*	*-.3*
HAVRE	13.3	12.6	*5.6*	12.7	12.1	*5.0*	.6	.5	.1	*4.5*	*4.2*	*.3*
HELENA	26.2	24.6	*6.5*	25.0	23.3	*7.3*	1.2	1.3	-.1	*4.8*	*5.3*	*-.5*
KALISPELL	36.8	31.3	*17.6*	33.6	28.2	*19.1*	3.2	3.1	.1	*8.8*	*10.1*	*-1.3*
LEWISTOWN	10.8	10.5	*2.9*	10.4	10.0	*4.0*	.4	.5	-.1	*4.1*	*5.2*	*-1.1*
MILES CITY	15.1	14.8	*2.0*	14.5	14.2	*2.1*	.6	.6	0	*4.1*	*4.1*	*0*
MISSOULA	46.7	43.7	*6.9*	43.7	40.2	*8.7*	3.0	3.5	-.5	*6.5*	*8.0*	*-1.5*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	17.9	16.9	*5.9*	17.1	16.0	*6.9*	.8	.9	-.1	*4.3*	*5.3*	*-1.0*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

MAY 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	360197	340772	19425	5.4
CASCADE	34968	32979	1989	5.7
YELLOWSTONE	52395	50283	2112	4.0
BEAVERHEAD	4300	4177	123	2.9
BIG HORN	4652	4342	310	6.7
BLAINE	3000	2778	222	7.4
BROADWATER	1456	1386	70	4.8
CARBON	3522	3375	147	4.2
CARTER	1069	984	85	8.0
CHOUTEAU	3230	3155	75	2.3
CUSTER	5818	5577	241	4.1
DANIELS	1501	1477	24	1.6
DAWSON	5528	5302	226	4.1
DEER LODGE	6755	6124	631	9.3
FALLON	2208	2148	60	2.7
FERGUS	5583	5372	211	3.8
FLATHEAD	21147	19439	1708	8.1
GALLATIN	20140	19390	750	3.7
GARFIELD	899	880	19	2.1
GLACIER	5206	4776	430	8.3
GOLDEN VALLEY	473	454	19	4.0
GRANITE	994	882	112	11.3
HILL	9139	8820	319	3.5
JEFFERSON	2651	2473	178	6.7
JUDITH BASIN	1401	1291	110	7.9
LAKE	8247	7796	451	5.5
LEWIS AND CLARK	22119	21118	1001	4.5
LIBERTY	1123	1068	55	4.9
LINCOLN	7397	6326	1071	14.5
MC CONE	1534	1495	39	2.5
MADISON	2612	2504	108	4.1
MEAGHER	947	904	43	4.5
MINERAL	1857	1733	124	6.7
MISSOULA	33419	31383	2036	6.1
MUSSELSHELL	1684	1626	58	3.4
PARK	5459	5209	250	4.6
PETROLEUM	334	330	4	1.2
PHILLIPS	2581	2476	105	4.1
PONDERA	3576	3474	102	2.9
POWDER RIVER	1121	1098	23	2.1
POWELL	3510	3307	203	5.8
PRAIRIE	1062	1044	18	1.7
RAVALLI	6904	6309	595	8.6
RICHLAND	4973	4870	103	2.1
ROOSEVELT	5616	5413	203	3.6
ROSEBUD	4356	4154	202	4.6
SANDERS	4520	4259	261	5.8
SHERIDAN	2503	2448	55	2.2
SILVER BOW	17222	15764	1458	8.5
STILLWATER	2201	2121	80	3.6
SWEET GRASS	1656	1607	49	3.0
TETON	2963	2882	81	2.7
TOOLE	2943	2858	85	2.9
TREASURE	515	501	14	2.7
VALLEY	5142	4827	315	6.1
WHEATLAND	1342	1298	44	3.3
WIBAUX	724	706	18	2.5

TABLE IX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

APRIL 1976

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	358097	334919	23178	6.5
CASCADE	35046	32915	2131	6.1
YELLOWSTONE	52704	50295	2409	4.6
BEAVERHEAD	4308	4077	231	5.4
BIG HORN	4640	4316	324	7.0
BLAINE	3003	2735	268	8.9
BROADWATER	1441	1364	77	5.3
CARBON	3532	3333	199	5.6
CARTER	1043	1003	40	3.8
CHOUTEAU	3206	3120	86	2.7
CUSTER	5653	5380	273	4.8
DANIELS	1504	1454	50	3.3
DAWSON	5633	5394	239	4.2
DEER LODGE	6604	6052	552	8.4
FALLON	2181	2119	62	2.8
FERGUS	5581	5327	254	4.6
FLATHEAD	20926	18765	2161	10.3
GALLATIN	20058	19186	872	4.3
GARFIELD	858	846	12	1.4
GLACIER	5100	4567	533	10.5
GOLDEN VALLEY	473	454	19	4.0
GRANITE	994	894	100	10.1
HILL	9074	8680	394	4.3
JEFFERSON	2634	2456	178	6.8
JUDITH BASIN	1320	1241	79	6.0
LAKE	6849	6285	564	8.2
LEWIS AND CLARK	22201	20956	1245	5.6
LIBERTY	1232	1171	61	5.0
LINCOLN	7489	6035	1454	19.4
MC CONE	1540	1448	92	6.0
MADISON	2616	2510	106	4.1
MEAGHER	967	905	62	6.4
MINERAL	1836	1652	184	10.0
MISSOULA	33486	30953	2533	7.6
MUSSELSHELL	1660	1594	66	4.0
PARK	5550	5182	368	6.6
PETROLEUM	343	338	5	1.5
PHILLIPS	2645	2500	145	5.5
PONDERA	3567	3436	131	3.7
POWDER RIVER	1145	1119	26	2.3
POWELL	3490	3233	257	7.4
PRAIRIE	960	925	35	3.6
RAVALLI	6836	6151	685	10.0
RICHLAND	4941	4784	157	3.2
ROOSEVELT	5677	5404	273	4.8
ROSEBUD	4359	4116	243	5.6
SANDERS	4356	3936	420	9.6
SHERIDAN	2515	2449	66	2.6
SILVER BOW	16814	15258	1556	9.3
STILLWATER	2221	2115	106	4.8
SWEET GRASS	1633	1597	36	2.2
TETON	3058	2953	105	3.4
TOOLE	2753	2640	113	4.1
TREASURE	538	521	17	3.2
VALLEY	5231	4777	454	8.7
WHEATLAND	1321	1277	44	3.3
WIBAUX	752	726	26	3.5

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

MAY 1978

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:					
	May 1978 1/	Apr. 1978	May 1977	Apr. 1978	May 1977	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
						May 1978		April 1978	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	117.5	117.4	105.9	.1	11.6	270.3	*43.5*	268.4	*3.7*
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.9	0	-.2	23.5	*11.5*	23.2	*11.6*
Mining	.3	.3	.3	0	0	6.6	*4.5*	6.3	*4.8*
Contract Construction	1.2	1.2	1.0	0	.2	16.5	*7.3*	15.8	*9.5*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	.2	20.8	*18.3*	20.8	*18.3*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	31.6	31.4	29.0	2	2.6	68.2	*46.3*	68.0	*46.2*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	7.9	7.9	7.0	0	.9	11.8	*66.9*	11.7	*67.5*
Services	33.4	33.5	31.3	-.1	2.1	48.8	*68.4*	48.7	*68.8*
Government 2/	36.6	36.6	30.8	0	5.8	74.1	*49.4*	73.9	*49.5*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1977 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	111.7	114.2	113.9	114.6	114.8	109.5
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction.....	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.6	31.1	31.4	31.0	29.5
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.2
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6	33.1	32.4	33.1	33.2	32.1
Government1/	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	32.9	34.6	34.4	34.4	35.0	32.7

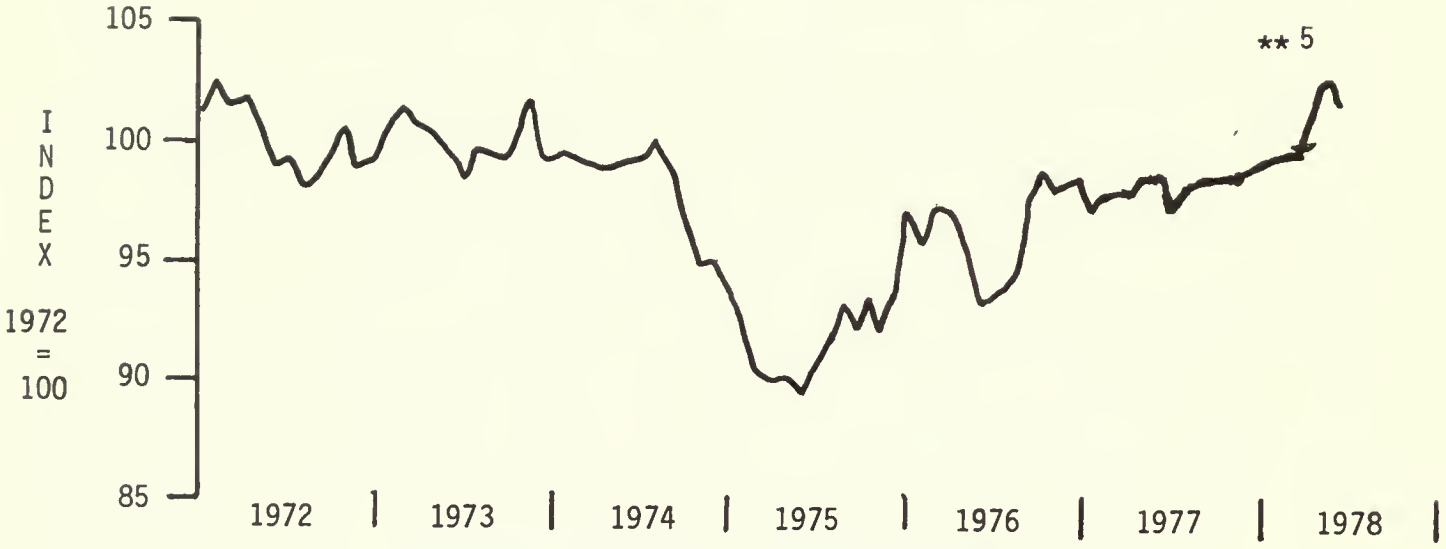
1978

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	115.2	115.4	116.2	117.4	117.5
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Mining.....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	30.7	30.5	30.8	31.4	31.6
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9
Services.....	33.2	33.3	33.4	33.5	33.4
Government1/.....	35.8	35.9	36.2	36.6	36.6

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1977 Benchmark.
Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS
1972 = 100

1977	
January	98.2
February	99.2
March	99.0
April	99.1
May	97.1
June	97.5
July	95.8
August	97.1
September	98.1
October	98.1
November	98.0
December	98.5
1978	
January	100.1
February	100.2
March	103.1
April	103.3
May	102.4*p.*
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

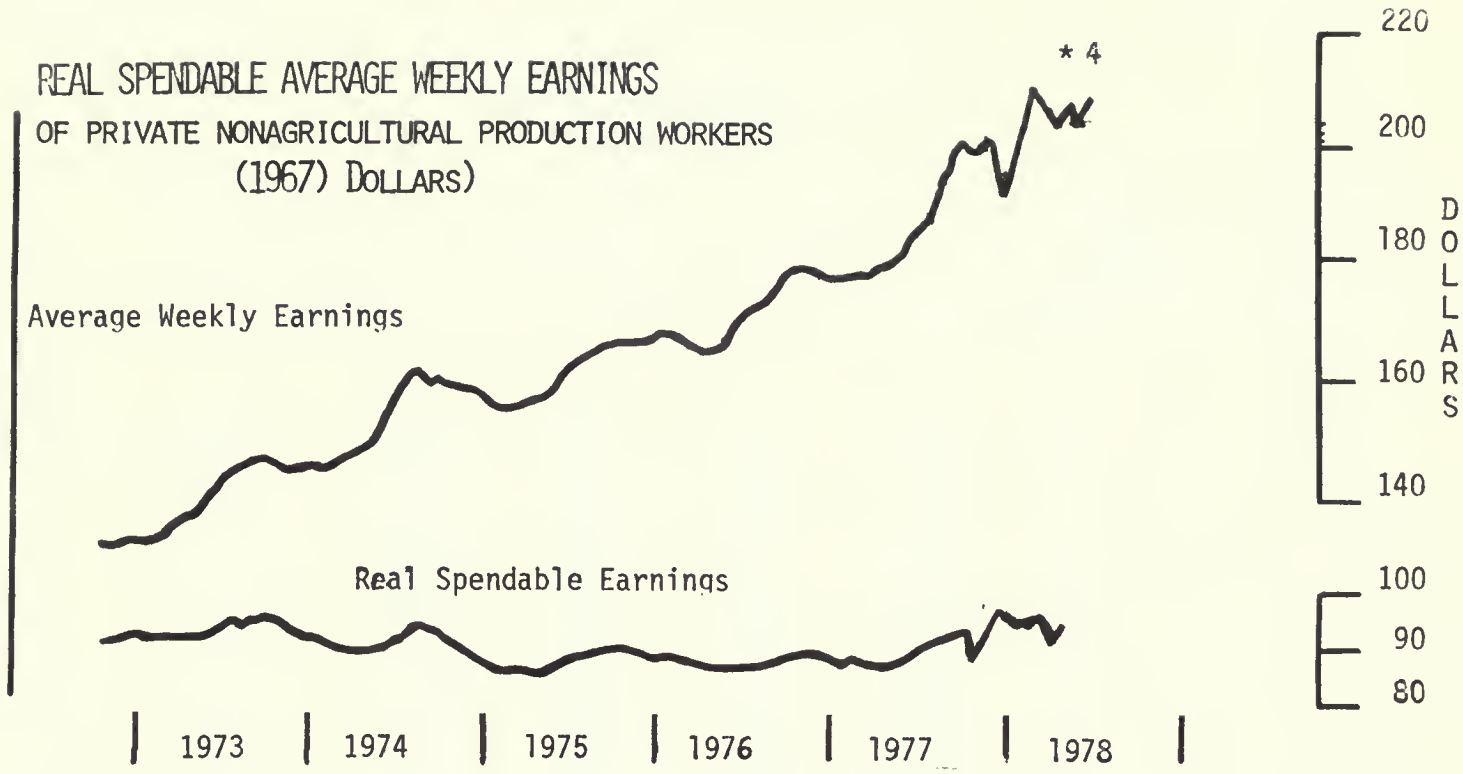
March and April changes in the composite index of six leading economic indicators reflect a strong positive trend. Improvements in almost all of the components were noted with building permits and initial claims realizing the most significant gains.

The projected index moved slightly downward in May as the values showed mixed changes. The projection is being negatively influenced by increases in initial claims and lower average weekly hours in manufacturing, while total building permits and manufacturing employment are leveling off. Lay off rates continued to improve but accession rates have changed direction.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*

p. Preliminary



	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$207.77	$203.28	$178.69
Taxes Withheld	32.50	31.19	27.44
Spendable Earnings	175.27	172.10	151.25
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	83.69	81.39	67.04
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	91.58	90.71	84.21

	Average Weekly Earnings	Real Spendable Earnings
1977		
July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.89	91.67
Oct.	202.65	93.29
Nov.	190.85	88.23
Dec.	210.37	95.44
1978		
Jan.	205.19	92.67
Feb.	209.10	93.63
Mar.	203.28	90.71
Apr.	207.77	91.58
May		
June		
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

The erratic behavior of the real spendable earnings continued in April. Gross weekly wages rebounded slightly during the month but have still not regained the February levels. This increase moved the index upward but the rising April consumer price index limited the real spendable earnings figure to $91.58. The month-to-month fluctuations that have recently affected this index make predictions of future movement almost impossible at this time. The growing problem of inflation as reflected in the C.P.I. could have a negative influence in the immediate future.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table XII

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] Montana	Percent[1] U. S.	
1976								
January	327.7	307.2	275.1	32.1	20.5	6.3	7.8	*
February	328.3	308.8	275.6	33.2	19.5	5.9	7.6	*
March	328.3	308.3	275.2	33.1	20.0	6.1	7.5	*
April	330.0	311.1	276.8	34.3	18.9	5.7	7.5	*
May	329.4	310.3	277.1	33.2	19.1	5.8	7.3	*
June	326.4	306.8	273.4	33.4	19.6	6.0	7.5	.1
July	334.2	313.9	279.4	34.5	20.3	6.1	7.8	.1
August	333.9	313.2	279.3	33.9	20.7	6.2	7.9	.1
September	335.6	315.5	282.2	33.3	20.1	6.0	7.8	.1
October	335.0	315.1	281.9	33.2	19.9	5.9	7.9	.1
November	337.2	317.0	283.8	33.2	20.2	6.0	8.1	.1
December	337.0	315.9	282.3	33.6	21.1	6.3	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	6.1	7.7	.1
1977								
January	337.1	315.9	282.2	33.7	21.2	6.3	7.4	.1
February	339.9	317.9	283.0	34.9	22.0	6.5	7.6	.1
March	340.0	317.5	282.4	35.1	22.5	6.6	7.4	.1
April	340.6	318.3	281.9	36.4	22.3	6.6	7.1	.1
May	340.5	317.4	282.3	35.1	23.1	6.8	7.1	.1
June	337.2	316.4	281.0	35.4	20.8	6.2	7.1	.2
July	344.4	321.7	285.5	36.2	22.7	6.6	6.9	3.3
August	347.9	324.8	289.4	35.4	23.1	6.6	7.0	.2
September	346.6	323.8	289.5	34.3	22.8	6.6	6.8	.1
October	347.2	325.3	291.6	33.7	21.9	6.3	6.8	.5
November	347.6	326.4	293.2	33.2	21.2	6.1	6.7	.1
December	346.5	326.0	292.5	33.5	20.5	5.9	6.4	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	352.6	329.4	295.8	33.6	23.2	6.6	6.3	.2
February	361.3	334.6	299.9	34.7	26.7	7.4	6.1	.2
March	362.4	336.2	301.6	34.6	26.2	7.2	6.2	*
April	362.3	339.4	305.1	34.3	22.9	6.3	6.1	*
May	360.5	338.6	305.6	33.0	21.9	6.1		*
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970. Revised to 1977 Benchmarks. Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	30.7	28.6	27.3	1.3	2.1	6.9	6.3	*
February	31.2	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.0	6.5	5.9	*
March	31.3	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
April	30.8	28.8	27.4	1.4	2.0	6.5	5.7	*
May	30.9	29.0	27.7	1.3	1.9	6.2	5.8	*
June	31.0	28.9	27.6	1.3	2.1	6.8	6.0	*
July	31.6	29.5	28.1	1.4	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
August	31.7	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.2	*
September	31.6	29.7	28.4	1.3	1.9	6.1	6.0	*
October	31.7	29.8	28.5	1.3	1.9	6.1	5.9	*
November	32.2	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.0	6.2	6.0	*
December	30.8	28.9	27.6	1.3	1.9	6.3	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	31.8	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.0	6.3	6.1	*
1977								
January	33.0	31.1	29.7	1.4	1.9	5.8	6.3	*
February	34.4	32.5	31.1	1.4	1.9	5.5	6.5	*
March	34.0	32.0	30.6	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.6	*
April	34.4	32.5	31.0	1.5	1.9	5.7	6.6	*
May	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.1	6.8	*
June	34.6	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.8	5.1	6.2	*
July	34.9	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.0	5.6	6.6	.8
August	35.4	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.3	6.5	6.6	*
September	35.4	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.5	7.0	6.6	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.5	6.3	.4
November	35.5	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.1	5.9	6.1	*
December	35.6	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.2	6.2	5.9	*
1977 Avg.	33.6	31.5	30.1	1.4	2.1	6.2	6.4	.1
1978								
January	36.5	33.9	32.5	1.4	2.6	7.0	6.6	*
February	37.8	34.5	33.1	1.4	3.3	8.7	7.4	*
March	35.7	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.6	7.4	7.2	*
April	35.0	32.8	31.4	1.4	2.2	6.3	6.3	*
May	34.8	32.6	31.3	1.3	2.2	6.3	6.1	*
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.
** Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	46.0	43.6	42.2	1.4	2.4	5.2	6.3	*
February	46.4	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.1	4.6	5.9	*
March	46.5	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.2	4.8	6.1	*
April	47.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.2	4.7	5.7	*
May	46.8	44.6	43.1	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.8	*
June	47.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.0	*
July	48.0	45.7	44.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
August	47.9	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.2	*
September	49.3	47.1	45.6	1.5	2.2	4.4	6.0	*
October	48.6	46.4	44.9	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.9	*
November	48.9	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.0	*
December	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	48.5	46.2	44.7	1.5	2.3	4.6	6.1	*
1977								
January	50.3	48.0	46.5	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.3	*
February	52.4	49.9	48.3	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.5	*
March	52.3	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.3	4.5	6.6	*
April	52.2	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.4	4.5	6.6	*
May	52.2	49.4	47.8	1.6	2.8	5.4	6.8	*
June	51.1	49.2	47.6	1.6	1.9	3.8	6.2	*
July	51.7	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.1	4.0	6.6	.1
August	53.2	50.7	49.0	1.7	2.5	4.8	6.6	.1
September	53.6	51.0	49.4	1.6	2.6	4.9	6.6	.1
October	53.3	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.3	.1
November	53.7	51.2	49.7	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.1	.1
December	53.0	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.3	4.3	5.9	.1
1977 Avg.	50.6	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	*
1978								
January	53.2	50.5	49.0	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.6	.1
February	55.6	52.3	50.7	1.6	3.3	5.9	7.4	.1
March	53.8	50.6	49.0	1.6	3.2	5.9	7.2	*
April	52.8	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.3	*
May	52.6	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.1	*
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: *Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.*

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

May 1978

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earning		
	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	$208.44	$207.77	$184.79	36.0	35.7	34.8	$ 5.79	$ 5.82	$ 5.31
MANUFACTURING	327.96	323.04	262.06	44.2	44.9	41.4	7.42	7.53	6.33
Durable Goods	327.36	319.40	265.44	44.6	42.7	42.0	7.34	7.48	6.32
Primary Metal Industries	317.73	328.32	287.60	38.7	39.7	40.0	8.21	8.27	7.19
Nondurable Goods	329.95	330.81	252.89	43.3	43.3	39.7	7.62	7.64	6.37
Food and Kindred Products	268.74	270.73	228.10	44.2	45.5	41.1	6.08	5.95	5.55
MINING	361.50	372.75	327.67	41.6	42.6	43.4	8.69	8.75	7.55
Metal Mining	400.79	394.61	302.48	40.2	39.9	39.8	9.97	9.89	7.60
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	388.28	406.55	345.22	34.3	34.6	38.4	11.32	11.75	8.99
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	303.47	305.34	301.49	41.8	42.0	41.3	7.26	7.27	7.30
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	306.68	306.68	365.03	45.3	45.3	40.9	6.77	6.77	6.48
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	159.99	161.05	151.01	33.4	32.8	31.2	4.79	4.91	4.84
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	144.59	148.47	131.38	35.7	36.3	36.8	4.05	4.09	3.57
SERVICES	133.46	132.73	109.59	33.2	33.1	29.7	4.02	4.01	3.69

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

APRIL 1978

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr 197
MANUFACTURING	3.3	2.9	3.2	2.1	1.6	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.9	1.6	1.2	1.3	0.5	1.3	2.(
Durable Goods	3.3	3.6	3.2	2.1	1.8	2.7	1.6	3.6	2.4	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.1	1.9	0.(
Primary Metal Industries	2.6	1.4	4.8	0.1	0.2	4.0	1.4	1.4	3.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0	0.3	2.(
Nondurable Goods	3.3	1.6	3.0	2.0	1.1	2.6	4.3	1.8	6.4	2.6	1.2	1.8	1.3	0.2	3.(
MINING	5.2	8.7	3.3	3.0	7.7	2.0	0.1	1.1	3.0	0.2	0.2	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.(
Metal Mining	1.9	2.2	3.0	0.1	0.3	*	0.9	2.4	3.3	0	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	1.(

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	May 1978	May 1977	Year to Date 1978	Year to Date 1977
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	36	33	168	137
MINING	8	12	33	64
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	132	72	411	352
MANUFACTURING	26	25	97	93
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	16	15	78	69
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	147	103	568	501
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	43	40	202	195
SERVICES	127	126	607	610
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	24	17	32	44
STATE TOTAL	559	443	2196	2065

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
	May 1978	May 1977	Year to Date 1978	Year to Date 1977
STATE OF MONTANA	559	443	2196	2065
GREAT FALLS SMSA	55	47	199	242
BILLINGS SMSA	77	61	340	296
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	40	22	160	146
Beaverhead	5	0	26	15
Deer Lodge	0	6	10	9
Granite	2	0	6	4
Madison	6	3	22	18
Powell	5	1	17	10
Silver Bow	22	12	79	90
BOZEMAN LMA	61	37	214	204
Gallatin	55	29	178	159
Meagher	3	1	5	3
Park	3	7	31	42
GLASGOW LMA	12	17	46	58
Daniels	0	1	2	3
Phillips	0	0	5	4
Roosevelt	3	5	17	18
Sheridan	3	5	7	10
Valley	6	6	15	23
GLENDIVE LMA	28	22	81	71
Dawson	5	6	19	22
Garfield	1	0	8	3
McCone	1	1	4	2
Prairie	1	1	7	10
Richland	17	14	40	32
Wibaux	3	0	3	2
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	18	8	75	44
Big Horn	4	1	22	12
Carbon	6	5	25	21
Stillwater	5	1	14	8
Sweet Grass	3	1	14	3

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
	May 1978	May 1977	Year to Date 1978	Year to Date 1977
HAVRE LMA	20	21	65	71
Blaine	5	2	14	10
Hill	13	16	37	42
Liberty	2	3	14	19
HELENA LMA	41	34	174	157
Broadwater	4	2	8	8
Jefferson	5	4	15	11
Lewis and Clark	32	28	151	138
KALISPELL LMA	74	51	269	245
Flathead	61	39	199	168
Lake	6	6	37	42
Lincoln	7	6	33	35
LEWISTOWN LMA	8	8	39	44
Fergus	3	8	24	31
Golden Valley	2	0	2	1
Judith Basin	1	0	3	2
Musselshell	1	0	5	9
Petroleum	0	0	1	0
Wheatland	1	0	4	1
MILES CITY LMA	19	14	61	59
Carter	1	2	5	5
Custer	10	8	22	33
Fallon	4	1	10	4
Powder River	0	2	4	2
Rosebud	3	1	19	12
Treasure	1	0	1	3
MISSOULA LMA	80	79	353	327
Mineral	5	4	10	6
Missoula	64	60	266	241
Ravalli	8	11	57	55
Sanders	3	4	20	25
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	26	22	120	101
Chouteau	2	2	18	11
Glacier	4	6	30	15
Pondera	10	7	31	33
Teton	4	1	14	7
Toole	6	6	27	35

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

* *If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

TABLE XIX

D I S T R I B U T I O N

MAY 1978

COUNTY	CCUNT	AMCUNT	U.I.
BEAVERHEAD	127	9,300.84	
BIGHORN	207	15,513.52	
BLAINE	166	11,811.17	
BROADWATER	43	2,975.44	
CAREON	184	13,767.28	
CARTER	0	0.CO	
CASCADE	2,127	149,243.74	
CHOUTEAU	53	2,962.60	
CUSTER	252	20,213.25	
DANIELS	18	1,258.44	
DAWSON	146	11,231.00	
DEER LODGE	1,099	94,678.60	
FALLON	45	3,024.CC	
FERGUS	203	13,345.60	
FLATHEAD	2,374	186,880.18	
GALLATIN	1,151	84,354.69	
GARFIELD	4	416.00	
GLACIER	469	34,951.42	
GOLDEN VALLEY	11	561.00	
GRANITE	132	9,663.72	
HILL	332	24,365.83	
JEFFERSCN	160	12,948.20	
JUDITH BASIN	72	5,526.40	
LAKE	407	28,194.44	
LEWIS AND CLARK	1,319	101,320.35	
LIBERTY	38	2,788.00	
LINCOLN	1,778	151,721.58	
MCCONE	21	1,554.00	
MADISCN	86	6,567.80	
MEAGHER	64	4,575.CO	
MINERAL	114	9,192.12	
MISSOULA	2,726	193,400.57	
MUSSELSHELL	58	3,639.00	
PARK	417	29,495.64	
PETROLEUM	1	104.CO	
PHILLIPS	97	6,674.00	
PONDERA	67	4,050.00	
POWDER RIVER	9	754.00	
POWELL	308	25,397.24	
PRAIRIE	29	2,044.00	
RAVALLI	589	41,365.19	
RICHLAND	95	7,037.68	
ROOSEVELT	149	10,052.58	
ROSEBUD	223	16,974.23	
SANDERS	326	23,468.96	
SHERIDAN	49	2,569.CO	
SILVER BOW	2,338	186,476.89	
STILLWATER	100	7,528.20	
SWEET GRASS	41	2,600.CC	
TETCN	61	4,037.28	
TCOLE	97	7,089.56	
TREASURE	17	1,516.CO	
VALLEY	242	16,364.64	
WHEATLAND	16	1,482.CC	
WIBAUX	8	639.00	
YELLOWSTCNE	2,698	209,494.34	
TOTAL	23,963	1,819,160.21	

TABLE XX

C U M U L A T I V E D I S T R I B U T I O N
JANUARY 1978 THRU MAY 1978 U.I.

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,472	115,065.01
BIGHORN	2,146	175,816.72
BLAINE	1,499	113,210.84
BROADWATER	568	44,406.74
CARBON	1,708	139,482.64
CARTER	126	11,120.00
CASCADE	18,939	1,464,932.07
CHOUTEAU	596	38,688.20
CUSTER	2,828	229,911.15
DANIELS	346	25,035.00
DAWSON	1,807	146,507.38
DEER LODGE	5,910	491,500.33
FALLON	619	44,218.04
FERGUS	3,052	235,304.90
FLATHEAD	16,427	1,277,784.93
GALLATIN	8,009	618,838.34
GARFIELD	140	11,043.63
GLACIER	3,964	311,497.01
GOLDEN VALLEY	96	5,968.00
GRANITE	711	54,807.72
HILL	3,412	262,393.95
JEFFERSON	1,406	121,292.16
JUDITH BASIN	720	62,162.73
LAKE	4,079	302,260.86
LEWIS AND CLARK	11,173	901,712.40
LIBERTY	355	28,534.00
LINCOLN	8,581	692,833.81
MCCONE	411	34,032.00
MADISON	722	55,189.41
MEAGHER	505	40,025.44
MINERAL	1,100	90,407.11
MISSOULA	18,400	1,363,292.69
MUSSELSHELL	844	69,618.00
PARK	3,231	232,317.88
PETROLEUM	32	3,307.00
PHILLIPS	1,043	76,162.25
PONDERA	1,071	88,250.00
POWDER RIVER	138	13,435.00
POWELL	1,900	148,938.68
PRAIRIE	401	36,110.00
RAVALLI	4,889	348,296.17
RICHLAND	1,147	89,273.80
ROOSEVELT	1,520	106,321.64
ROSEBUD	2,066	166,133.77
SANDERS	3,408	275,075.53
SHERIDAN	444	31,470.04
SILVER BOW	15,020	1,212,334.56
STILLWATER	870	72,260.12
SWEET GRASS	255	19,348.00
TETON	940	71,594.76
TOOLE	1,200	94,758.37
TREASURE	166	16,644.00
VALLEY	2,900	217,217.59
WHEATLAND	320	26,575.00
WIBAUX	103	8,522.00
YELLOWSTONE	22,832	1,853,329.97
TOTAL	188,567	14,786,569.34

TABLE XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1978	1977	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	20,875	21,204	-329	*-1.6*
Continued Claims[1/]	245,982	221,588	24,394	*11.0*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	200,301	204,196	-3,895	*-1.9*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$15,929,902	$15,746,541	183,361	*1.2*
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2/]	$84.56	$80.52	$4.04	*5.0*

MONTHLY

	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	2,594	2,932	2,586	8	*0.3*
Continued Claims[1/]	34,170	36,980	30,003	4,167	*13.9*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	25,626	31,915	27,151	-1,525	*-5.6*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$1,993,419	$2,496,175	$2,082,162	-$88,743	*-4.3*
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2/]	$84.57	$82.65	$89.76	-$5.19	*-5.8*
Trust Fund Balance	-$1,384,990*	-$7,333,083*	-$2,082,159**	$697,169	*33.5*

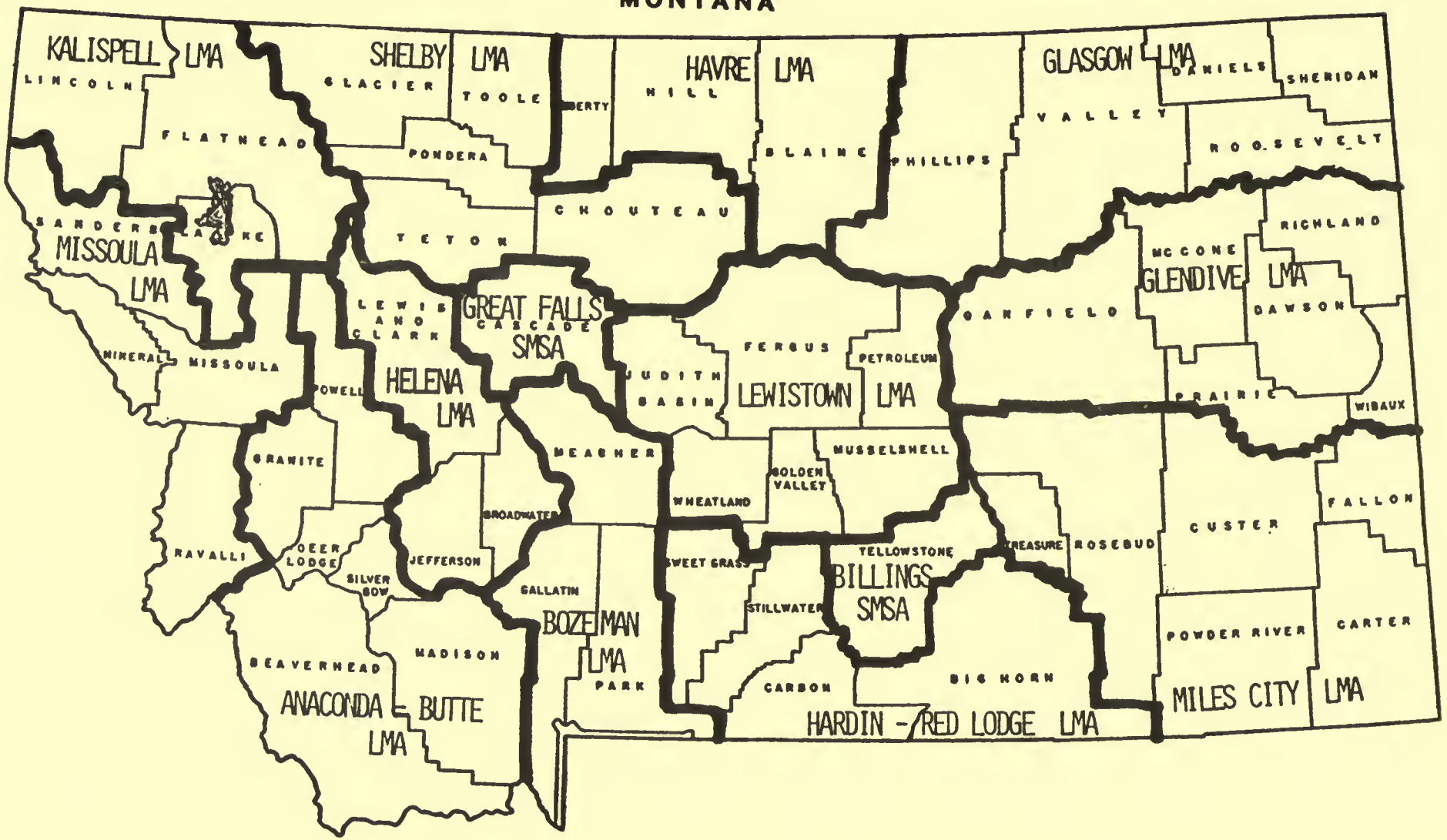
1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $10,484,089.*
*** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $ 9,284,089.*

The initial and continued claims total picture remains virtually unchanged from last month, with both statistics continuing their seasonal decline. The two totals dropped from April to May, but both were ahead of the monthly figures for May of 1977. The initial claims year-to-date total for 1978 is just below that of last year, whereas the figure for continued claims is 11.0% ahead of 1977's pace.

Once again, the number of benefit payments and the amount of benefit payments declined from the previous month and also from a year ago. The year-to-date totals are holding steady, with the number of benefit payments slightly below, and the amount of benefits paid, narrowly ahead of last year's figures.

The average weekly benefit amount (AWBA) rose from April to May, but was well below the figure for May of last year. The year-to-date AWBA is again ahead of last year's amount, and is likely to stay there throughout the rest of the year.

LABOR MARKET AREAS
IN
MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
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The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.